

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ANNUAL SCHOOL AND DISTRICT REPORT CARDS

General Organization

The publication is to be organized into two distinct sections: one related to the state accountability system and one related to the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

Changes which do not affect the current SDE printing contract should be made effective with the 2007 card; other changes are to be included in the 2008 and beyond report cards

Page One

The graphic is to be changed from a furled American flag to a Palmetto Tree and crescent moon

Instead of separate sections for Absolute and Improvement Ratings and AYP Status, a table displaying "Ratings Trends Over 5-Year Period" is to be printed, with the current year in a larger font size. This table would include an asterisk (*) designation for schools with elevated improvement ratings because of the performance of historically underperforming students. The * would be explained in a note below the table.

Report AYP status in the NCLB section.

The school ratings terms would be published.

The 2010 goal would remain on the front as would the SDE and EOC websites.

Page Two

The purpose of page two is to present information about the rating relative to the criteria and their performance of schools or districts with similar students.

The distribution of absolute ratings of similar schools or districts would be displayed.

Sectioned bar graphs for the school/district and similar schools/districts would be used to display performance on the assessments used in calculation of the ratings. The definitions of student performance categories (as printed currently) would be displayed.

There would be a new section, provided by the EOC, in which the factors included in a rating would be presented as well as a statement to read: "District and school performance standards increase yearly between 2004 and 2010."

Page Three

Changes to the School or District Profile are made with the intents of (a) eliminating data no longer collected; (b) adding or amending program elements; and (c) moving NCLB required data to the NCLB section.

Eliminate the following profile elements:

- Percentage of students testing off-grade level in ELA
- Percentage of students tested off-grade level in Math
- Percentage of students on academic plans
- Percentage of students on academic probation
- For the district card, number of alternative schools
- For the district card, number of charter schools

Add or amend the following profile elements:

- Beginning in 2008-2009, amend "First graders who attended full-day kindergarten" "kindergarteners who attended state-funded full-day pre-kindergarten programs"
- Add the physical education program element
- For high schools in 2007-2008, add the foreign language program element
- Use the term "on-time graduation rate" rather than simply graduation rate
- For the district card, the ratings of charter schools
- Amend "eligible for LIFE scholarships" with notes about use in ratings to the general rate of eligibility
- Report average ACT and SAT scores on the district card only

Shift the following element to the NCLB section:

- Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers

Page Four

No changes

Page Five and beyond

Present all information required by NCLB